

— SOME BIRDS FROM PULO CONDORE.

By H. C. ROBINSON AND C. BODEN KLOSS.

Mr. W. J. F. Williamson, who sent his collector to Pulo Condore with Dr. Malcolm Smith's men in September 1919, has not attained the success he deserved in investigating the avifauna of the island, for the collector was, unfortunately, laid up with dysentery for a week out of the 17 or 18 days he spent there. So the set of specimens brought back was not as large, nor the exploration as exhaustive, as it might have been.

It is curious that more seems to have been learnt of the birds of this little group of islands a century and a half ago than in more recent times: Linnaeus recorded the Jungle-fowl as *Phasianus gallus* in 1766; Gmelin described the Shama, *Turdus macrourus*; and Sparrman, the Roseate Tern, *Larus polo-condore* (better known as *Sterna dougalli* Mont.), in 1788; while Dampier (1687), King (1780), and Crawford and Finlayson (1822)* wrote of Parrots and "Parakites", Doves and Pigeons.

If, therefore, I am correct in believing that the islands have not received attention in later days, Mr. Williamson has added considerably to our knowledge of its birds in spite of his ill-luck: nevertheless there must still be, comparatively speaking, a good many more to be met with and it is to be hoped that Mr. Williamson may be able to send his collectors again to the island.

The present collection was submitted to my colleague for determination, but owing to press of work and illness Mr. Robinson was unable to deal with more than half the species, among which he distinguishes a new form of *Mixornis rubricapilla*. C.B.K.

† 1. *Muscadivora aenea* subsp. (?).

Muscadivora aenea ? subsp. Hartert, Nov. Zool. XXV, 1918, p. 346 (Hainan).

1 ♀. "Iris red, bill green, feet red". Total length, 405. Wing, 228 mm.

The material available is not sufficient to determine the status of this bird, which probably represents a subspecies as yet unnamed

*Vide antea pp. 74, 75.

but which also occurs in Cochin China and possibly Hainan. The vinaceous colour on the lower surface and the head is more pronounced than in most specimens from the Malay Peninsula, which are *M. ae. aenea*, though this can be matched in birds from Cambodia and East Siam. The size is about that of the South Indian and Ceylon *M. ae. pusilla* (Blyth); smaller than *M. ae. sylvatica* (Tick.), from which it also differs in the vinaceous ear-coverts. The nape and upper mantle are also darker grey than in any Malayan specimens we have examined.

In this connexion Hartert's remarks (*supra*) should be studied. We are reluctantly compelled to use the name *Muscadivora* for the genus instead of the more familiar *Carpophaga*, as the case for the former name seems unanswerable.

+ 2. *Tringoides hypoleucos*.

Tringa hypoleucos, Linn., Syst. Nat. i. 1766, p 250 (Europe).

1 ♀. "Iris dark brown, bill black." Total length, 310.

Wing, 111 mm.

+ 3. *Bubulcus lucidus coromanda*.

Canceroma coromanda, Bodd., Tabl. Pl. Enl. 1783, p 54 (Coromandel Coast).

1 ♀. "Iris yellow, bill deep yellow, legs black". Total length, 495. Wing, 237 mm.

The presence of the Cattle Egret on an island of this description is somewhat unusual. The bird is in winter plumage.

+ 4. *Alcedo ispida bengalensis*.

Alcedo bengalensis, Gm., Syst. Nat. i, 1788, p. 450 (Bengal).

1 ♂. "Iris brown, bill black, feet red." Total length, 170.

Wing, 72 mm.

The bird, which is not quite adult, calls for no special remark.

+ 5. *Collocalia francica germani*.

Collocalia germani Oustalet, Bull. Soc. Philom., 1876, p. 1 (Pulo Condore, Cochin China).

Collocalia francica merguensis subsp. n., Hartert, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XVI, 1892, p. 506 (Mergui, Tenasserim).

Collocalia francica germaini Oberholser, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1906, p. 201.

1 ♂, 4 ♀. "Iris dark brown, bill black, feet pale fleshy." Total length, ♂ 115; ♀ 119, 121, 120, 120. Wing, ♂ 108; ♀ 123, 123, 119, 116 mm.

With these fresh topotypes in hand we fancied we could keep apart from them birds representative of those to which Hartert gave the name *merguiensis*, on account of the less greenish gloss in the latter, which appeared to us to have the upper parts more brownish owing to the gloss being purplish. On submitting specimens to Dr. Hartert, however (who has himself withdrawn *merguiensis*, vide Oberholser, *supra*), he wrote us that he could still admit no differences. We must, therefore, disregard our own opinion.

+ 6. *Cypselus pacificus pacificus*.

Hirundo pacifica, Lath., Ind. Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 58 (New South Wales).

Micropus pacificus, Hartert, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xvi, 1892, p. 448.

1 ♂, 2 ♀. "Iris dark brown, bill black, feet pale flesh." Total length, ♂ 192; ♀ 194, 196. Wing, ♂ 189; ♀ 188, 186 mm.

These birds slightly exceed the maximum given by Hartert for the species, *viz.*, wing 184.5 mm., but cannot be separated from the typical form.

+ 7. *Rhopodytes tristis longicaudatus*.

Phœnicophæus longicaudatus Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, X, 1841, p. 923 (Tenasserim).

Rhopodytes tristis hainanus Hartert, Nov. Zool. XVII, 1910, p. 218 (Hainan); Robinson & Kloss, Ibis, 1919, p. 427 (Cochin-China and South Annam).

3 ♂, 1 ♀. "Iris reddish brown, bill green, feet pale blue" (?). Total length, ♂ 545, 470, 520; ♀ 509. Wing, ♂ 159, 150, 160; ♀ 155 mm.

These birds agree in size and colour with Tenasserim specimens: Hainan birds also agree in size with Blyth's overlooked race. Topotypical examples vary a little: some being paler below

with a dirty-buff wash on foreneck and breast, while others are darker below, with the wash less evident. The four Pulo Condore birds resemble the latter.

† 8. *Aegithina tiphia*.

Motacilla tiphia, Linn., Syst. Nat., i, 1766, p. 331 (Bengal).

2 ♀. "Iris dull white, bill above blackish brown, below dull white, legs pale blue". Total length, 145, 135. Wing, 60, 61 mm.

There is nothing special to remark on these birds; they can be exactly matched by others from Annam and other parts of the Indo-Malayan region.

† 9. *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*.

Pycnonotus finlaysoni, Strickland, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. xiii, 1844, p. 411 (♀ Malaysian Ids. *Errone*: substitute "Siam").

3 ♂, 2 ♀. "Iris reddish brown, bill blackish brown, legs pale brown." Total length, ♂ 200, 190, 192; ♀ 180, 192. Wing, ♂ 86, 83, 79; ♀ 76, 79 mm.

The specimens are all in moult and the wing measurements therefore are not reliable.

This bulbul, which is characteristically Indo-Chinese, is very constant in its colours and measurements, and in the very large series before us, ranging from Malacca to Pulo Condore, we have been unable to recognize any local differences whatever. The present birds are rather bright, but this is entirely due to their being in quite fresh feather.

† 10. *Mixornis rubricapilla condorensis* Robinson, subsp. nov.

The dullest form of the species; pileum with the rufous tinge duller and much reduced, general colour of the mantle more olivaceous, less russet, external aspect of the wing very little browner than the mantle and back.

Type. Adult male. Pulo Condore, 8th September 1919, collected by Mr. W. J. F. Williamson's native collector. Three specimens examined. "Iris dull yellowish brown, bill above blackish brown, below dull white, feet greenish yellow". Total length, ♂ 138,* 142; ♀ 130. Wing, ♂ 63,* 64; ♀ 58 (imp.).

*Type of the subspecies.

This race, which is just separable on the characters above given, shows an even greater departure from the typical form, than the forms inhabiting the southern Malay Peninsula and Sumatra, in the reduction of the russet of the plumage, especially on the pileum.

→ 11. *Kittacincla malabarica macrura*.

Turdus macrourus Gm., Syst. Nat. 1788, p. 820 (Pulo Condore).

3 ♂. "Iris brown, bill black, feet pale fleshy". Total length, 255, 220, 165. Wing, 94, 92, 88 mm.

Mr. Williamson's specimens of this long-wanted bird, though not forming a very good series, enable us to state that it represents a good subspecies, the males being paler on the breast than continental forms and with less black in the outer tail feathers than in any other race except *K. m. suavis* Sclater, from S. E. Borneo, which is very distinct. The subspecies is confined to Pulo Condore.

→ 12. *Locustella certhiola*.

Motacilla certhiola, Pallas, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. I, 1827, p. 509 (beyond Lake Baikal).

Locustella certhiola, Hartert, Vog. Palaarkt. Faun. i, 1910, p. 550.

1 ♂, 2 ♀. "Iris reddish brown, bill above blackish brown, below pale pinkish brown, legs pale pinkish brown". Total length, ♂ 140; ♀ 153, 150. Wing, ♂ 61; ♀ 66, 67 mm.

These specimens, evidently on migration, are all fairly adult; they have the under-surface whitish, without any tinge of yellow, the breast tinged with buffy brown and the under tail-coverts brownish, paler at the tips. The species is not uncommon on migration during the winter months in the Malay Peninsula and on small islands in the Straits of Malacca, but appears to be only a bird of passage, making a very brief stay. With us, moreover, quite young birds, which are very different in colour from the adults, are much more numerous. In these the whole under-surface is yellowish, the flanks and under wing-coverts deep brown with a yellowish tinge, and the foreneck, breast and flanks with narrow brownish black streaks.

→ 13. *Orthotomus atrogularis*.

Orthotomus atrogularis Temminck, Planches Coloriées, 1836, text in Livr. 101. (Malacca).

2 ♀ "Iris deep yellow; maxilla brown, mandible pale fleshy; feet pale fleshy". Total length, 122, 110. Wing, 46, 47 mm.

† 14. *Phylloscopus borealis borealis*.

Phyllopneuste borealis, Blasius, Naumannia, 1858, p. 313 (Ochotsk Sea).

1 ♀. "Iris dark brown, bill above brownish black, below yellow, legs brownish." Total length, 120. Wing, 64 mm.

Though one might have expected from the locality that this Willow-Warbler would prove to belong to the Chinese form, *P. b. xanthodryas*. (Swinh., P. Z. S., 1863, p. 296), the very small first primary shows that it must be referred to the typical race.

† 15. *Dicrurus annectens*.

Buchanga annectens Hodgson, Ind. Rev., I, 1837, p. 326 (Nepal).

1 ♂. "Iris reddish brown, bill and feet black." Total length, 275. Wing, 147. Tail, 135. Bill, breadth at nostrils 10: height at chin, 11 mm.

An undoubted example of the Crow-billed, and not of the Black, Drongo as one would perhaps have expected. The specimen is in immature plumage, considerably spotted with white on the abdomen, under wing- and under tail-coverts.

† 16. *Dissemurus paradiseus malayensis*.

Edolius malayensis Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal. XXVIII, 1859, p. 272 (Penang).

Dissemurus paradiseus malayensis, Kloss, Ibis, 1918, pp. 229, 518.

4 ♂, 6 ♀. "Iris brown or reddish-brown, bill and feet black." Wing, ♂ 154, 157, 159, 166; ♀ 153, 155, 159, 161, 161, 165 m.m.

The wing lengths of these birds are about the same as in *D. p. paradiseus* of Central Siam, but the crests are much smaller and much less laterally compressed and curved, though more bushy. Pulo Condore birds and birds of Cochin-China are not to be distinguished from *D. p. malayensis* to which we accord a range in the Malay Peninsula from the Dindings to Mergui. The Continental Paradise-Drongos are much affected by latitude, and their crests increase in size as they go northwards. *D. p. platurus*, of the southern part of

the Malay Peninsula, has the smallest crest : then come progressively *D. p. malayensis*, with range as above, and farther northwards, *D. p. paradiseus* extending from Central Tenasserim eastwards to Annam ; the doubtfully distinct *D. p. rangoonensis* occurs in the southern half of Burma, and to the east in the same latitudes is found *D. p. johni* in Hainan : largest crested of all is *D. p. grandis*. from Nepal to Yunnan.

The same thing happens in India, where *D. p. malabaricus* has a smaller crest than *grandis*, and *D. p. ceylonensis* one smaller still.

† 17. *Passer montanus malaccensis*.

Passer montanus malaccensis Dubois, Faun. Vert. de la Belgique, Oiseaux, I, 1887, p. 574 (Malacca).

1 ♂, 2 ♀. " Iris pale brown, bill blackish brown, feet pale brown ". Total length, ♂ 125 ; ♀ 130, 125. Wing, ♂ 67 ; ♀, 63, 67 mm